

charged me to make the best entertainment I could for these learned gentlemen, and if the tongue be the key of knowledge, what cou'd be so proper as a feast of tongues for a philosophical banquet.

Xanthus, finding that his friends were pleased with *Æsop's* answer, invited them to sup with him the next day, promising to provide a better entertainment; and then told *Æsop* that as he was set upon contradicting him, he might provide the *worst* things he could think of. But when the guests were assembled the next day, they found again repeated the service of tongues: when *Xanthus* being enraged, demanded with great heat, what could be the reason why tongues could one day be the best of meats, and the worst the next? 'Sir, said *Æsop*, the tongue bears
' a part and is principally concerned in all
' the wickedness upon earth; and you, Sir,
' have more reason than other men, both to
' know its mischievous and its excellent qualities, from your being both an husband
' and a philosopher. To what else is this
' banquet owing? whence arose the breach
' in your family, which has made your friends

' meet

' meet here to rejoice of
' but to an evil tongue
' owing to the tender an
' of the tongue that
' and as you have e
' tongue to be the be
' ment, you have no r
' at your twice feasting

Some time after, *Xanthus* with liquor, laid a wager up the sea, which he could give a pledge of his performance that he wore on his finger being sensible of his finger uneasy, especially as he had his hands as would take an *Æsop*, however, understood and reminded him, that he was tioned to drink up the rivers and streams that flowed in his infirmities. He then insisted on his adversaries to perform the same. *Xanthus* readily followed who were to decide the matter. His plea was just, the antagonist, who was obliged

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